

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELGRA 06634 01 OF 02 031843Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 EA-10 NSCE-00 DHA-05
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-----024375 031936Z /46

O R 031740Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2644
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 6634

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: YO OVIP (BROWN, HAROLD)
SUBJ: US-YUGOSLAV MILITARY RELATIONSHIP: PUBLIC POSTURE:
SECDEF VISIT

REF: SECDEF 300052Z SEP 77

1. SECDEF'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA IS BOUND TO FOCUS PRESS ATTENTION ON THE MILITARY DIMENSION OF US-YUGOSLAV BILATERAL RELATIONS. SUBSEQUENT HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGES SHOULD INCREASE THIS ATTENTION. WE HAVE SET OUT BELOW AN ATMOSPHERIC FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH WE WOULD SUGGEST PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF THE MILITARY DIMENSION BE CARRIED ON. WE ALSO INCLUDE SUGGESTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR USE WITH SPECIFIC INQUIRIES. FIRST, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO INCLUDE A WORD OF CAUTION ON OUR PUBLIC TREATMENT OF THE MILITARY ISSUES WITH RESPECT TO YUGOSLAVIA.

2. WE HAVE AMPLE EVIDENCE OF HOW SENSITIVE THE GOY IS ON THE QUESTION OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF MILITARY ISSUES. THE "TOW LEAK" IS AN EXCELLENT ILLUSTRATION. THE GOY SAW
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BELGRA 06634 01 OF 02 031843Z

THE LEAK AS PREMEDITATED, REGARDED IT AS A FORM OF US 'PRESSURE', AND SUBSEQUENTLY KILLED THE DEAL. OUR MILITARY RELATIONS THEN MOVED SEVERAL STEPS BACKWARDS. REVERSING THIS TREND HAS NOT BEEN EASY, BUT WE HAVE MANAGED TO DO THIS FOR AT THE SAME TIME THE YUGOSLAVS SEE GOOD MILITARY RELATIONS WITH US IN THEIR INTERESTS AS WELL. HOWEVER, AN INCAUTIOUS STEP MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT TO

SET BACK AGAIN ALL OF OUR EFFORTS.

3. WE HAVE TOLD THE YUGOSLAVS CONSISTENTLY THAT THE AVOIDANCE OF LEAKS AND PRESS KNOWLEDGE CANNOT BE GUARANTEED. INDEED THEY ARE AWARE THAT CERTAIN SALES WILL HAVE TO BE REPORTED TO THE CONGRESS WHICH IN EFFECT WOULD PLACE THIS INFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. AND NATURALLY HIGH LEVEL VISITS WILL BE IN FULL VIEW. ALTHOUGH WE KNOW THE GOY WOULD PREFER IT, WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING A NEWS BLACKOUT -- FOR THIS WOULD BE BOTH DISTASTEFUL AND IN MANY CASES ILLEGAL. BUT WE ARE URGING CAUTION, DISCRETION, AN APPRECIATION OF YUGOSLAV SENSITIVITIES, AND AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ACTIONS WE HAVE AND WILL BE TAKING WILL BENEFIT US INTERESTS.

4. US-YUGOSLAV MILITARY RELATIONS: SUGGEST FOLLOWING AS GENERAL FRAMEWORK IN WHICH TO DESCRIBE MILITARY COOPERATION. IN THE LAST THREE DECADES US-YUGOSLAV MILITARY-TO-MILITARY RELATIONS HAVE BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY EXTREME POSTIONS OF EITHER VERY HIGH DEGREES OF ACTIVITY OR VERY LITTLE INTERCHANGE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE 1950'S SAW A LARGE GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COMPLEMENTED BY SALES. HOWEVER, IN THE LAST TEN YEARS OR SO, THE INTERCHANGE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY LESS INTENSE. WE BELIEVE THESE FLUCTUATIONS HAVE BEEN UNDESIRABLE AND WE NOW SEEK A MODERATE BUT SUBSTANTIAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH WILL BE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BELGRA 06634 01 OF 02 031843Z

MORE DURABLE AND REALISTIC. YUGOSLAVIA HAS MADE VERY CLEAR OVER MANY YEARS THAT IT IS DETERMINED TO DEFEND ITSELF. OUR COOPERATION IS DESIGNED TO HELP THEM SUSTAIN THE CAPABILITY TO DO JUST THAT. IT IS WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK THAT SECDEF BROWN IS VISITING YUGOSLAVIA OCTOBER 12-14. THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE AND WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THIS AND OTHER VISITS SHOULD LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE MORE CONSTANT RELATIONSHIP IN THE FUTURE.

5. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL REGARDING PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVICE, EMBASSY PROVIDES FOLLOWING RESPONSES:

(A) OPENING OF CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (CSCE) OCTOBER 4 IN BELGRADE HAS ATTRACTED SEVERAL HUNDRED EUROPEAN AND NORTHAMERICAN NEWS REPRESENTATIVES. EXPECT THAT BY TIME OF SECDEF

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 06634 02 OF 02 031919Z
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 BELGRADE 6634

ARRIVAL THERE WILL STILL BE AT LEAST 50 AMERICAN
(AND 200 EUROPEAN) NEWSMEN REPRESENTING PAPERS,
WIRESERVICES, RADIO AND TELEVISION NETS IN
BELGRADE AREA.

(B) QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WOULD PROBABLY FOCUS ON
NATURE OF US-YUGOSLAV MILITARY RELATIONSHIP,
OBLIGATION OR INTENTION OF U.S. TO DEFEND
YUGOSLAVIA, LIKELIHOOD OF WARSAW PACT
INTERVENTION IN POST-TITO YUGOSLAVIA AND
PROBABLE U.S. RESPONSE, AND POLICY ON ARMS SALES
TO YUGOSLAVIA. WE SUGGEST SECRETARY AVOID ANY
COMPARISON OF US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS WITH THOSE
BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND SOVIET UNION, AVOID
MENTION OF POSSIBLE FORTHCOMING VISITS TO U.S. BY
GENERAL POTOVAR AND ADMIRAL MAMULA.

(1) QUESTION: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SECRETARY
BROWN'S VISIT AT THIS TIME, PARTICULARLY AFTER
PRESIDENT TITO'S TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION,
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SECRET

PAGE 02 BELGRA 06634 02 OF 02 031919Z

NORTH KOREA AND CHINA AND AT THE CONCLUSION OF
THE NPG TALKS IN BARI?
ANSWER: MY VISIT IS ANOTHER IN THE SERIES

OF HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS STARTED WITH THE MAY VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA BY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, AND CONTINUED BY THE RECENT SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES BY YUGOSLAV PRESIDENCY MEMBER EDVARD KARDELJ. THESE VISITS PERMIT A CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ON MANY SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE RECENT RRAVELS OF PRESIDENT TITO AND MY VISIT TODAY: NOR IS THERE ANY SIGNIFICANCE TO MY COMING HERE AFTER THE BARI MEETING, OTHER THAN THE PROXIMITY OF THE TWO PLACES.

(2) QUESTION: ARE YOU HERE TO DISCUSS ARMS SALES? WHAT DO THE YUGOSLAVS WANT TO BUY?

ANSWER: I CANNOT DISCUSS THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR TALKS TODAY OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT WE HAVE COVERED A BROAD RANGE OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS. THE UNITED STATES HAS IN THE PAST SUPPLIED CERTAIN KINDS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO YUGOSLAVIA FOR ITS NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCES. WE CONTINUE TO DISCUSS WHAT YUGOSLAVIA NEEDS AND WHAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT SUPPLY.

(3) QUESTION: HAVE YOUR TALKS COVERED THE USE OF AMERICAN FORCES TO REPEL AND INVASION OF YUGOSLAVIA?

ANSWER: AGAIN, I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WHICH WERE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BELGRA 06634 02 OF 02 031919Z

MAINLY OF AN INFORMATIVE, ORIENTATIONAL NATURE, AND WHICH PERMITTED US TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S VIEWS. WE DID NOT DISCUSS HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS. I THINK THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE HAVE CLEARLY STATED THE U.S. POLICY TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA: WE FIRMLY SUPPORT THE INDEPENDENCE, UNITY, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF YUGOSLAVIA. WE RESPECT YUGOSLAVIA'S POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT, AND WE APPRECIATE THE LEADERSHIP ROLE WHICH YUGOSLAVIA AND PRESIDENT TITO HAVE PLAYED IN THAT MOVEMENT.

(4) QUESTION: IS THERE ANY MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE TO THE FACT THAT ON THE DAY YOU ARRIVE IN YUGOSLAVIA THAT YUGOSLAV AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF COLONEL GENERAL ENVER CEMALOVIC HAS ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON ON A N OFFICIAL VISIT?

ANSWER: COLONEL GENERAL CEMALOVIC'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN PLANNED LONG BEFORE MINE. HE IS GOING TO WASHINGTON AS A GUEST OF GENERAL DAVID C. JONES, AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF. HIS VISIT IS ONE OF SEVERAL WHICH TAKE PLACE EVERY

YEAR WHEN OUR SERVICE CHIEFS INVITE THEIR COUNTERPARTS TO
THE U.S. HOWEVER, WE DO DESIRE TO BALANCE OUR MILITARY RELATIONS
WHICH IN THE PAST HAVE UNDERGONE WIDE FLUCTUATIONS.

(5) QUESTION: IS IT TRUE THE US NAVY WILL SOON SEND A
DESTROYER TO BE REPAIRED IN THE PORT OF TIVAT WHERE SOVIET
VESSELS HAVE BEEN REPAIRED UP TO NOW?
ANSWER: WE HAVE HAD SOME DISCUSSIONS WITH YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES
ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SHIPYARD AT TIVAT PERFORMING MINOR
REPAIRS ON NON-COMBATANT USN VESSELS. AGREEMENT HAS NOT YET
BEEN REALIZED BUT I REPEAT THAT ANY VESSELS GOING INTO
TIVAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE WOULD BE NON-COMBATANTS. OUR
INTEREST IS NOT RELATED TO THE SOVIET USE OF THE SHIPYARD,
BUT TO OUR DESIRE TO HAVE A VARIETY OF REPAIR FACILITIES
AVAILABLE TO SIXTH FLEET VESSELS.

C. PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACTION WILL BE EMBASSY PRESS OFFICER
BRIAN CARLSON (OFFICE: 645-655; HOME 645-274).
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PAGE 04 BELGRA 06634 02 OF 02 031919Z

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Message Attributes

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